

# QIYAM AL LAYL

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

**“THEIR SIDES FORSAKE THEIR BEDS, TO INVOKE THEIR LORD IN FEAR AND HOPE, AND THEY SPEND (CHARITY IN ALLAH’S CAUSE) OUT OF WHAT WE HAVE BESTOWED ON THEM.”**

(Surah Al Sajdah 32:16)

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

**“IS ONE WHO IS OBEDIENT TO ALLÂH, PROSTRATING HIMSELF OR STANDING (IN PRAYER) DURING THE HOURS OF THE NIGHT, FEARING THE HEREAFTER AND HOPING FOR THE MERCY OF HIS LORD (LIKE ONE WHO DISBELIEVES)? SAY: “ARE THOSE WHO KNOW EQUAL TO THOSE WHO KNOW NOT?” IT IS ONLY MEN OF UNDERSTANDING WHO WILL REMEMBER (I.E. GET A LESSON FROM ALLÂH’S SIGNS AND VERSES).”**

(Surah Az Zumar 39:9)

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

**“THEY USED TO SLEEP BUT LITTLE BY NIGHT [INVOKING THEIR LORD (ALLÂH) AND PRAYING, WITH FEAR AND HOPE].”**

(Surah Adh Dhariyat 51:17)

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

**“O YOU WRAPPED IN GARMENTS (I.E. PROPHET MUHAMMAD)! STAND (TO PRAY) ALL NIGHT, EXCEPT A LITTLE. HALF OF IT, OR A LITTLE LESS THAN THAT, OR A LITTLE MORE; AND RECITE THE QUR’ÂN (ALOUD) IN A SLOW, (PLEASANT TONE AND) STYLE.”**

(Surah Al Muzzammil 73:1-4)

Narrated by Abu Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“THE BEST OF PRAYERS AFTER THE PRESCRIBED PRAYERS IS PRAYER IN THE DEPTHS OF THE NIGHT, AND THE BEST OF FASTING AFTER THE MONTH OF RAMADAAN IS FASTING THE MONTH OF ALLAAH, MUHARRAM.”**

(Saheeh Muslim)

Narrated by ‘Abd-Allah Ibn ‘Amr (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“THE MOST BELOVED OF PRAYER TO ALLAAH IS THE PRAYER OF DAWOOD, AND THE MOST BELOVED OF FASTS TO ALLAAH IS THE FAST OF DAWOOD. HE USED TO SLEEP FOR HALF OF THE NIGHT, THEN GET UP AND PRAY FOR A THIRD OF THE NIGHT, THEN SLEEP FOR A SIXTH OF THE NIGHT, AND HE USED TO FAST EVERY OTHER DAY.”**

(Agreed upon)

Narrated by ‘Amr Ibn ‘Absah (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“THE CLOSEST THAT THE LORD IS TO HIS SLAVE IS IN THE LATER PART OF THE NIGHT, SO IF YOU CAN BE ONE OF THOSE WHO REMEMBER ALLAH AT THAT TIME, THEN DO SO.”**

(Tirmidhi & Al Nasa’i)

Narrated by Anas Ibn Malik (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“JIBREEL SAID TO ME, ‘GO BACK TO HAFSAH, FOR SHE FASTS A LOT AND PRAYS A LOT AT NIGHT (QIYAAM AL-LAYL).”**

(Al Hakim, Saheeh Al Jami 4227)

Narrated by Ibn Mas'ud (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“OUR LORD ADMIRES TWO MEN: A MAN WHO LEAVES HIS MATTRESS AND COVER, AND SLIPS AWAY FROM HIS WIFE AND LOVER, TO GO AND PRAY. ALLAAH SAYS, ‘O MY ANGELS, LOOK AT MY SLAVE. HE HAS LEFT HIS MATTRESS AND COVER AND SLIPPED AWAY FROM HIS LOVER AND WIFE TO PRAY, OUT OF HOPE FOR WHAT IS WITH ME AND OUT OF FEAR OF WHAT IS WITH ME.”**

(Musnad Imam Ahmad. It is a Hasan report. Saheeh Al Targheeb 258)

Narrated by ‘Uqbah Ibn ‘Amir (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“WHEN A MAN FROM MY UMMAH GETS UP TO PRAY AT NIGHT, STRIVING AGAINST HIS OWN SELF TO GET UP AND PURIFY HIMSELF, THERE ARE KNOTS ON HIM. WHEN HE WASHES HIS HANDS IN WUDOO’, ONE KNOT IS UNDONE. WHEN HE WASHES HIS FACE, ANOTHER KNOT IS UNDONE. WHEN HE WIPES HIS HEAD, ANOTHER KNOT IS UNDONE. WHEN HE WASHES HIS FEET, ANOTHER KNOT IS UNDONE. THEN ALLAH SAYS TO THOSE WHO ARE VEILED (IN THE UNSEEN): ‘LOOK AT THIS SLAVE OF MINE, HE IS STRIVING AGAINST HIS OWN SELF AND ASKING OF ME. WHATEVER MY SLAVE ASKS OF ME SHALL BE HIS.”**

(Musnad Imam Ahmad & Ibn Hibban. Saheeh Al Targheeb 627)

Narrated by Fadālah Ibn ‘Ubayd (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“THE MUJAAHID IS THE ONE WHO STRIVES AGAINST HIS OWN SELF FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAAH.”**

(Tirmidhi & Ibn Hibban. Al Saheehah 549)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“YOU SHOULD PRAY QIYAAM AL-LAYL, FOR IT IS THE HABIT OF THE RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE WHO CAME BEFORE YOU, AND IT WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO YOUR LORD, EXPIATE FOR BAD DEEDS, PREVENT SIN, AND EXPEL DISEASE FROM THE BODY.”**

(Tirmidhi & Musnad Imam Ahmad)

Narrated by ‘Abd-Allah Ibn ‘Amr Ibn al-‘Aas (رضي الله عنه) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

**“WHOEVER RECITES TEN AYAT IN QIYAAM WILL NOT BE RECORDED AS ONE OF THE FORGETFUL. WHOEVER RECITES A HUNDRED AYAT IN QIYAAM WILL BE RECORDED AS ONE OF THE DEVOUT, AND WHOEVER PRAYS A THOUSAND AYAT IN QIYAAM WILL BE RECORDED AS ONE OF THE MUQANTAREEN (THOSE WHO PILE UP GOOD DEEDS).”**

(Abu Dawud & Ibn Hibban. It is a Hasan report. Saheeh Al Targheeb 635)

## **QUOTES FROM THE CLASSICAL SCHOLARS:**

Yahya Ibn Mu’adh (رحيم الله) said:

**“The medicine of the heart is five things: reading Qur’an and pondering the meaning, having an empty stomach, praying at night (Qiyam Al layl), beseeching Allah at the time of suhoor, and keeping company with righteous people.”**

‘Abd-Allah Ibn Wahb (رحيم الله) said:

**“Every type of pleasure is enjoyed only once, except for acts of worship, which are enjoyed three times: when you do it, when you remember it, and when you are given the reward for it.”**

Muhammad Ibn Al Munkadir (رحيم الله) said:

**“There is nothing left of the joys of this life except three: Qiyam Al layl, meeting one’s brothers in faith, and praying in congregation.”**

Thabit Al Banani (رحيم الله) said:

“There is nothing I enjoy more than Qiyam Al layl.”

Yazid Al Riqashi (رحيم الله) said:

“A lot of tahajjud brings delight to the worshippers, and a lot of thirst (i.e., fasting), brings joy when they meet Allah.”

Ibrahim Ibn Shammās said:

“I used to see Ahmad Ibn Hanbal staying up at night to pray when he was a young man.”

Abu Bakr Al Marwadhī (رحيم الله) said:

“I was with Imam Ahmad for nearly four months in the army, and he never stopped praying Qiyam at night or reading Qur’an during the day, and I never knew when he completed the Qur’an, because he kept that secret.”

Al Allaamah Ibn ‘Abd Al Haadi (رحيم الله) said, describing the Qiyam of Shaykh Al Islam Ibn Taymiyyah (رحيم الله):

“At night he would keep away from people, and spend that time only with his Lord, beseeching Him continually and reciting Qur’an, repeating different kinds of acts of worship by night and by day. When he began to pray, his body would start to tremble, leaning to the left and right.”

Ibn Rajab (رحيم الله) said concerning his Shaykh Ibn Al Qayyim (رحيم الله):

“He was a man of worship, tahajjud and lengthy prayers. I have never seen his equal in worship and knowledge of the Qur’an, hadeeth and principles of faith.”

Al Hafiz Ibn Hajar Asqalani (رحيم الله) said, describing his Shaykh Al Hafiz Al Iraqi (رحيم الله):

“I stayed with him, and I never saw him forsake Qiyam Al layl: it was like a habit for him.”

‘Ali Ibn Bakkaar (رحيم الله) used to have a slave-woman who would spread out his bed for him, and he would touch it with his hand and say:

“By Allah, you are good, and by Allah you are cool, but by Allah I will not rest on you tonight.” Then he would get up and pray Qiyam until Fajr.

Thabit Al Banani (رحيم الله) said:

“I struggled for twenty years to make myself pray Qiyam Al layl, and I enjoyed it (Qiyam Al layl) for twenty years.”

A man said to Ibrahim Ibn Adham (رحيم الله),

“I cannot pray Qiyam Al layl, so tell me the cure for this.”

He (رحيم الله) said, “Do not commit sin during the day, and He will help you to stand before Him at night, for your standing before Him at night is one of the greatest honours, and the sinner does not deserve that honour.”

A man said to Al Hasan Al Basri (رحيم الله):

” O Abu Sa’eed, I sleep in good health, and I love to pray Qiyam Al layl, and I prepare water with which to purify myself, so why can I not get up?”

Al-Hasan (رحيم الله) said: “Your sins are restricting you.”

He (رحيم الله) said, may Allah have mercy on him, “The slave who commits a sin will be denied the opportunity to pray Qiyam at night and to fast during the day.”

Al Fudayl Ibn Ayad (رحيم الله) said:

“If you cannot pray Qiyam Al layl, or fast during the day, know that you are indeed deprived and restricted, chained by your sins.”

Al Hasan (رحيم الله) said:

“We do not know of any deed more difficult than the struggle to stay up at night or to spend money.”

It was said to him, “Why do the mutahajjadeen (those who pray Tahajjud at night) have the most beautiful faces?”

He (رحيم الله) said, “Because they spend time alone with the Most Merciful, so He adorns them with some of His light.”

Reference: QUOTES FROM THE CLASSICAL SCHOLARS

<https://islamqa.info/en/answers/3749/ways-to-help-oneself-pray-qiyaam-al-layl>